

Organics Subcommittee Meeting Summary

May 6, 2013, 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

MassDEP, One Winter Street, Boston, MA

*All presentations are posted on the MassDEP website [here](#).

MassDEP Updates

Lorenzo Macaluso, of the Center for EcoTechnology (CET), provided an overview of the Technical Assistance component of the RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts program. CET administers the RecyclingWorks program under contract to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). RecyclingWorks is a recycling assistance program that helps businesses and institutions maximize recycling, reuse, and composting opportunities. Some of the services RecyclingWorks provides include direct technical assistance, a searchable database of local recycling haulers and processors, online resources, and events and workshops. RecyclingWorks has recently focused technical assistance services to aid businesses and institutions that will be subject to the commercial organics waste ban. Components of the technical assistance provided include:

1. Developing a baseline of current food waste disposal
2. Working with current hauler, if possible, to determine possible alternative disposal options
3. Presenting a set of options with cost analysis to the business or institution
4. Providing tailored employee training and signage as needed.

RecyclingWorks technical assistance provides the customer with a range of possible organics waste reduction, composting, and disposal options, and it is up to the business or institution to determine which option to pursue.

For more information on the RecyclingWorks Program, please visit www.recyclingworksma.com. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about receiving technical assistance from RecyclingWorks, please email info@recyclingworksma.com or call the hotline at (888) 254-5525 to speak to a Recycling Expert.

John Fischer provided the following updates on MassDEP's Organics Action Plan:

- MassDEP expects to prepare an updated Organics Action Plan for publication later this spring. That would reflect the updated status of each task in the Plan. A number of recent developments are highlighted below.

Data Analysis

- MassDEP is continuing to refine estimates of food waste generation by sector. We will receive a research paper on food waste generation and management from food manufacturers and processors, which was prepared by a Boston University graduate student, in June. MassDEP also is continuing to track businesses and institutions that are currently diverting food waste.

- In addition, MassDEP will be publishing an updated list of food waste composting facilities on our web site shortly.
- Municipal waste combustors are conducting updated waste characterization studies in spring and summer 2013. These studies, which are required as a condition of the renewable energy credits that these facilities receive, will be submitted to MassDEP in February 2014.

Collection Infrastructure

- Updates on RecyclingWorks technical assistance are covered in the section above. In addition to that work, MassDEP continues to add stores to our Supermarket Recycling Certification Program, and continues to reach out to businesses and institutions about the proposed ban and assistance available from MassDEP.
- MassDEP is providing targeted assistance to state facilities to establish organics diversion programs, which could also include grants for collection containers or signs.
- The Massachusetts WasteWise Forum will be taking place on Thursday, June 13th, 2013 at Worcester State University from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. This event provides an opportunity to learn what others are doing to enhance their waste reduction programs and gain information to improve your own programs. For more information on the WasteWise Program visit www.epa.gov/wastewise. You can RSVP to the event by emailing hannah.blackmer@cetonline.org or calling 413-586-7350 ext. 240 (please provide your name, company, email, and phone).
- In addition to these efforts, the RecyclingWorks program is working with local health officials to develop recommended best management practices for food waste collection, which can serve as a resource. These recommended BMPs will also serve as a resource for businesses, institutions, and haulers. We hope to have draft recommended practices ready for discussion at the June Organics Subcommittee meeting.

Processing Capacity/Market Development

- The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center has awarded a number of grants through its Organics to Energy grant program to support the development of anaerobic digestion facilities. In addition, MassDEP has awarded grants to municipalities for organics capacity projects and has \$750,000 in funding specifically dedicated to such projects in the upcoming grant cycle.
- The Recycling Loan Fund continues to offer low-interest loans to support organics capacity projects.
- MassDEP is working with several state agencies to move forward with the development of three anaerobic digestion facilities hosted on state properties.

Regulations

- MassDEP has been preparing the regulations and guidance for the commercial organics waste ban and these are ready to go to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for approval. MassDEP continues to work towards an effective date for the ban in summer 2014. MassDEP is also working on implementation of the revised solid waste site assignment regulations, including developing certification forms, which are expected to be ready later this spring.
- The MassDEP website address has changed and can now be found at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/>. Remember to update any links or bookmarks you may have. There have only been minor changes to the online content, primarily the removal of a few outdated documents. If there is an organics-related document that you cannot find on the website please contact John Fischer at john.fischer@state.ma.us.

Food Is Not Trash, Wellesley College Capstone Environmental Studies Course

Several students from Wellesley College presented their Capstone Environmental Studies Course detailing a variety of food waste reduction, donation, and composting options for Wellesley College. The presentation included baseline information, a definition of various on- and off-site food waste options available to the college, a description of the decision making tools used, and the final short- and long-term proposals selected. For more information, see the presentation using the link at top of the page or see the full report posted on Wellesley's website at <http://new.wellesley.edu/sites/default/files/assets/departments/environmentalscience/files/es300-2012-wastenotwantnot.pdf>.

Assessment of On-site Systems for Processing Food Waste, Isaac Griffith-Onnen and Zachary Patten, Northeastern University

Isaac Griffith-Onnen and Zachary Patten from Northeastern University gave a presentation describing and providing case studies on various on-site systems used to process food waste. Technologies explored include pulpers/shredders, dehydrators, "dry" systems that produce compost as the final product, and "wet" systems that produce effluent as the final product. For more information, please see the presentation using the link at top of the page or see the full report posted on the MassDEP website at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/recycle/reduce/massdep-food-waste-final-report.pdf>.

Assessment of Small Scale Organics to Energy Systems, Amy Stillings, ERG

Amy Stillings from ERG gave a presentation providing an overview of organics to energy systems that are appropriate for small agricultural operations, livestock farms, food waste generators, or local community management facilities. More specifically, the report focuses on smaller systems designed to handle 1/2 to 30 tons per day. Technologies were evaluated using a detailed evaluation form to be completed by vendors. The data from these evaluation forms will inform an economic tool that can be used to pre-screen technologies. The final report and

economic tool are expected to be completed by the end of June 2013. For more information, please see the presentation using the link at top of the page.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Organics Subcommittee is scheduled for Monday, June 10, 2013 at MassDEP's Boston office, 2nd floor conference room.